

## **II. Remarks/Arguments**

The instant case is a continuation of a patent application that has since issued as a U.S. patent. The "Cross Reference to Related Application" paragraph has been updated accordingly. No new matter has been added.

**III. Version With Markings to Show Changes Made**

On page 1, lines 7-10:

**Cross-Reference to Related Application**

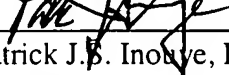
[This patent application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/441,623, filed November 16, 1999, pending, the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference, and the priority filing date of which is claimed.] This patent application is a continuation of U.S. Patent No. 6,336,903, issued January 8, 2002, the priority date of which is claimed and the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference.

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Entry of the foregoing preliminary amendment is requested and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Please contact the undersigned at (206) 381-3900 regarding any questions or concerns associated with the present matter

Respectfully submitted,

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